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Armed Robber Pleads Guilty to Heists in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

(Alexandria, VA) - David Eugenio Florian-Mendoza, age 40, pled guilty today to brandishing a firearm in connection with a conspiracy to rob and robbery of check cashing stores in Arlington, Virginia; Washington, D.C; and, Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, Rockville and Silver Spring, Maryland. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the plea, and noted that Florian-Mendoza faces a sentence of a minimum of 32 years and up to life in prison when he is sentenced on December 15, 2006.

According to court documents, on October 11, 2005, Florian-Mendoza and a co-conspirator robbed the CD Mega Store in Arlington, Virginia, after threatening an employee with a handgun. He stole \$9,026 in that robbery. Thereafter and through June 2006, he conspired with others to rob stores in the Washington metropolitan area, and in furtherance of that conspiracy, robbed or attempted to rob eight more check cashing stores. In each case a handgun was brandished at the store's employee. In all of the robberies, he stole a total of approximately \$104,000.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the police departments of Arlington County, Montgomery County, Takoma Park and Washington, D.C. Assistant United States Attorney Michael E. Rich prosecuted the case for the government.

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